



THE Outlook

Feb. 8, 2005

Visit the Outlook online at www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil



Welcome Home

The 386th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion, returned from their tour in Iraq on Thursday evening. Most of the unit worked at the Baghdad International Airport during the deployment, but Fetherston was in Kuwait, and Capt. Victor Baezan and Sgt. Michael Walles were in Balad. The community is invited to help welcome the 386th home at a party in their honor on Thursday at Club V from 3-6 p.m. (Photo provided by Army Community Service)

2004 wage, tax statements available on “myPay”

USAREUR Public Affairs
News Release

The 2004 Wage and Tax Statement (W-2 Form) is now available online on the “myPay” webpage at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to view, print or save. Prior year W-2 forms, dating back to 2000, are also available.

Both active and reserve-component Soldiers who have access to myPay via a customized PIN number will not receive a hardcopy W-2 in the mail. Soldiers should access their myPay account and print a copy of their W-2 for use in filing their calendar year 2004 tax return. There are two exceptions to this rule; Soldiers who elected to receive a hardcopy W-2 through the myPay system prior to Dec. 4, 2004; or deployed Soldiers. Both categories provide Soldiers printed W-2s in the mail to home stations regardless of the myPay account status.

Soldiers who do not have a myPay PIN may request one by clicking on the “New PIN” button on the bottom left side of the myPay homepage front page.

A new feature to myPay allows Soldiers to create a PIN for family members to view pay information. The family member PIN will not allow family members to make any pay change transactions. For questions related to myPay, or for assistance in obtaining a myPay PIN, Soldiers may call

customer support at 1-800-390-2348, or inquire at local finance offices.

Local finance offices in Europe will have the ability to print duplicate W-2 forms for years 2000 through 2004 after Feb. 18. Requests can be made at local finance offices.

This year, 2004 W-2 forms are reporting pay earned while serving in a Combat Zone Tax Exclusion area. This information provides Soldiers the opportunity to determine their eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. The CZTE pay is listed separately in block 14 of the W-2 form and is not included in taxable wages in block 1.

EITC and CTC qualifications are based on gross income, which includes pay earned while in a CZTE area. The addition of this information on 2004 W-2s will aid in determining whether IRS requirements for EITC and CTC are met, and which method of computing taxes is most advantageous to each situation.

For tax questions, Soldiers should consult their unit tax advisor or the community tax center. Information is also available in the Armed Forces Tax Guide 2004, found online at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf and the Internal Revenue Service Web site www.irs.gov.

For information, contact Capt. Jeffrey Pray or Sgt. 1st Class Dean Lowery at 379-6122 or 06202-806122.

Army sets new Strategic Planning Guidance

By Zachary M Gildin
Army News Service

The Army released new Strategic Planning Guidance for 2005 that includes three new focus areas: homeland defense, irregular challenges, and stability operations.

The Army Strategic Planning Guidance was approved by Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey Jan 15.

“The ASPG is a long-range planning guide, with the purpose of defining the Army’s strategy for the next 10 to 20 years,” said Maj. Sue Bryant, an Army strategist who works in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G3, and is the principal author of the document.

Bryant explained that while the document is only required to be rewritten every two years, there was a need for refinement after the 2004 release.

“The Department of Defense released their Strategic Planning Guidance, and there were requirements in it the Army needed to react to. That necessitated that we put out a new strategic planning guide to refine the areas of focus.”

See Strategic Planning on Page 3

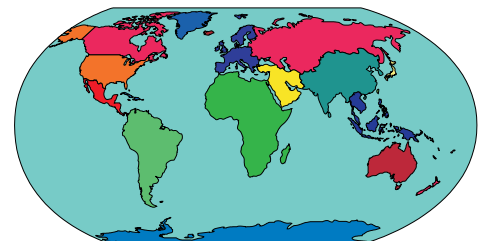
Expand Your World Multicultural Fair

Don’t miss the opportunity to travel the seven continents all right here on Caserma Ederle Feb. 18 from 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Pick up your Expand Your World Passport at the Post Theatre and begin traveling. Caserma Ederle has been broken up into the seven different continents and many different countries from each continent will be represented. You’ll expand your mind as you visit each country tasting ethnic foods, creating crafts, playing their traditional games, listening to their music and learning what makes that culture special.

Get your Passport stamped at each country and be eligible for fabulous travel prizes at the AAFES fashion show of costumes from around the world.

Call MWR Marketing at 634-7343 for more information, and see next week’s Outlook for full story on the event.



Don't become a victim Vehicle break-ins, theft still on rise

Sgt. Tara Teel
SETAF Public Affairs

With the holiday season over one would assume the vehicle break-ins and theft would also come to a close. Unfortunately that is exactly the opposite. The number of vehicles broken is dramatically increasing in the Vicenza area.

“The number of break-ins from January through November 2004 totaled 72, whereas in the month of December alone there were 77 vehicles broken into,” said Lt. Col. Shawn Driscoll, 22nd Area Support Group Provost Marshal. “As of Jan. 24, the total number was 56 vehicles broken into.”

These latest break-ins have been occurring in areas where tourists visit and not in the private and leased quarters. These include malls, stores, and restaurants.

“The three top locations for the break-ins are Vicenza with 61 vehicles, Torri Di Quartesolo with 22, and Camisano with 16,” said Driscoll.

The number of break-ins reported in Torri Di Quartesolo and Camisano represented mainly privately and leased quarters and are lower than in the tourist area of Vicenza.

According to the Carabinieri, the increase in incidents is tied to the poor economic situation of this area. The thieves are not targeting U.S. personnel and have been stealing just as well from the Italians.

“American vehicles are not singled out,” said Staff Sgt. Jerry Dahlberg, 22nd ASG PMO. “There are no distinguishing differences between American and Italian owned vehicles.”

Vehicles that are parked on the street over night have had their rear windows punched out. The thieves are stealing property that is either visible or hidden under something like a towel and left in the car. Items that have been stolen range from stereos to



All over the Vicenza province, Americans are driving vehicles that look just like this one. Windows have been broken out by burglars looking for quick cash, gas coupons and other items. Remember, if your vehicle is broken into, go straight to the MP station without cleaning up the mess. The MPs need to take the official photos for record. (Photo by Kelli Covlin, Outlook Editor)

wallets, and cameras to gas coupons.

“The best thing we can advise the community to do is to take everything out of their vehicles at night or while in town, rather than hiding it and even open the glove compartment to show there is nothing in the vehicle,” Driscoll said.

Keep your vehicle clear and avoid a break-in because thieves are out there more than before.

Claims office may not provide full restitution for victims of car burglaries

Mark Christensen
Chief, Client Services

During the past several weeks the number of SETAF personnel reporting vehicle break-ins has dramatically increased.

Some victims contact the Vicenza Claims Office concerning compensation for their losses, and many are surprised to find out they will not receive the full amount of their loss from the Army.

Claims are paid according to entitlement spelled out in AR 27-20 and DA Pam 27-162.

Claims personnel are personally liable and limited to only make payments defined compensable by the regulation.

The purpose of the Army Claims Program is to compensate personnel for losses incident to service, and not to serve as a substitute for personal or property insurance coverage.

All personnel are strongly encouraged to obtain and keep insurance on themselves and their property that will fully compensate any loss.

The recent spate of vehicle burglaries and vandalism is considered incident to service if the event takes place on an Army installation or at your quarters.

A police report must accompany your claim, and must show that the burglary or vandalism took place at one of those two places. Burglaries or thefts at other locations are not compensable.

For instance, if your car is vandalized while parked at your friend's quarters, and that friend is a member of our force with quarters assigned by the Housing Office, your claim will not be approved. The loss must occur at your quarters.

Also, claims procedures require deducting depreciation and preexisting

damage from claims filed. You might not receive the full replacement or repair cost for your damaged vehicle unless you have a separate private insurance policy that fully covers your loss.

Finally, no claim can be paid for stolen contents of your vehicle. The Army has determined that your vehicle is not an appropriate storage location for any item not connected to the vehicle.

If you have a stereo with a removable faceplate, and the stereo is stolen, you must be able to prove you removed the faceplate prior to the theft.

Stolen contents of the vehicle such as booklets of compact disks, cameras, fuel coupons, and uniform items cannot be paid for by the Claims Office.

We recommend you store nothing in your vehicle, lock it when you are not with it, and if you have a garage, store your locked vehicle in that garage.

Above all, review your vehicle insurance policy and make changes with your carrier to make sure your deductible is appropriate and any loss is fully covered. In most cases, simple liability coverage will not suffice.

Personnel at the Claims Office at 634.7031 can answer your questions.

FAC begins activation process

The first phase of activation of the Family Assistance Center will take place on Friday at 4:30 p.m. in Davis Hall. For more information on services provided by the FAC, call Army Community Services at 634-7500.

Community Action Council

If you have an issue that you would like to submit, e-mail your issue to CAC@setaf.army.mil or call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post. This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Contact CYS Central Registration at 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Hall.

The next CAC is Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: I would like to know why the cost of fuel is going up again when it went up, two months ago? What is there justification in raising this cost when the price of fuel in the state has gone down and the cost of fuel in this area has gone up only around 20 cents Euro a liter.

Response from AAFES: We would like to clarify the Italian Gas program. AAFES does not establish nor regulate the POL coupon prices. While we do not have control over the price of Italian gas, we need to take into consideration that the cost of gas is compensated monthly with the OCOLA and Post allowances.

The Italian gas program and POL pricing is completely different from the German gas

program and pricing. Italian gas prices are based on the tax free price Italian oil companies pay for fuel. A number of factors influence the final price of fuel in Italy, which may not have the same impact on prices stateside.

While we understand why customers compare prices in Italy with those stateside, this is not a factor when determining Italian fuel prices. Italian fuel prices are determined by 1) the price of fuel which is provided to the Navy every 15 days by the Defense Energy Supply Center (which is the price AGIP and ESSO sell oil to the U.S. Navy); 2) the Euro fluctuation, and 3) the gains and losses due to Euro fluctuation during the 15 day period.

Italian POL prices are established and regulated by the Italian Ministry and the Tax Tree Products administrator in Naples, Italy.

AAFES is only an agent authorized to sell the coupons. AAFES is notified by the Tax Free Products Administrator office in Naples of any changes increasing or decreasing the price of the POL coupons now on a monthly basis.

Price changes can be more frequent going forward (monthly) – they can go up or down depending on all the above factors.

Issue: I know that parking is a HUGE issue on the post. Any chance of providing a few slots at various locations for expectant mothers?

Response from Directorate of Public Works: Reserved parking for expecting mothers is certainly a good idea, and one that deserves implementing.

We will designate one space at the PX, one at the Commissary, and three at the new birthing center for this purpose. It will take us approximately 30 days to procure and

install these signs.

Issue: In July 2004, IPCS'd from Vicenza, Italy to Fort Sill, Okla. and I left my work address at Fort Sill for all my mail to be forward there. I disconnected my phone service in Italy on Feb. 25, 2004 to allow TTEP to have my final bill prior to my departure in July.

In April 2004 I received and paid a bill in the amount of \$121.90 which, after my deposit refund was applied, came to \$59.80. Since my last bill received was in November 2003, I thought this was my final bill.

However, when I started clearing at the end of June, TTEP informed me that I had to paid \$268.38 in order for them to clear me, because this was the estimate received from the phone company to cover any outstanding bills. Apparently, even paying the amount above hasn't satisfied my account as I have continue to received bills here at Fort Sill from TTEP in Vicenza.

When I arrived on Fort Sill, I had received various invoices from TTEP and the last one stated that I have a balance due for my phone services of \$162.01.

I have e-mailed TTEP requesting a breakdown on my charges but have not heard back. Now I see that my Leave and Earnings Statement has a deduction for TTEP for the amount above, plus a \$30 service fee. Can someone please help me?

Response from Directorate of Community Activities: The Tax Relief Office management apologizes for the delayed response and poor service provided to this customer.

TRO received this customer's request for billing details Oct. 6, 2004. Unfortunately, TRO was not provided a complete and detailed

response from the telephone company until Dec. 3, 2004.

Due to the inadequate services provided to this customer, all fees incurred following the February 2004 account closure have been refunded.

TRO Email Inquiries

TRO acknowledges receipt of customer requests within one business day. Acknowledgment is inclusive of a point of contact and related information (direct email and phone numbers) and informs the customer that a complete response will be provided within three working days.

Telephone Tax Exempt Program closing procedures

Step 1: Customer must notify the TRO of closure. TelecomItalia Business Division requires a notice of six working days to disconnect a phone line.

Step 2: The TRO e-mails the closure request to TelecomItalia. TelecomItalia will respond with an estimated closure cost within five working days.

Step 3: TRO requires payment of an estimated amount in order to complete the “clearing” process. Payment may be made in cash, money order, credit/debit card or payroll deduction, as preferred by the customer.

Step 4: Upon receipt of the final bill, the TRO will reconcile the customer's account. Any remaining credit or outstanding amounts are forwarded to the customer's new mailing address.

Receipt of a final bill from Telecom Italia Business Division varies between two and six months. Due to the significant delay in Telecom Italia's billing, the estimated bill may be rather large, as it refers to a period of four to eight months.

G r a f f i t i – There is no place for it in our community



Paint has been splattered on this Post Office drop box in Villaggio.

By **Bethany Trent**
SNAP Coordinator

Regardless of your opinion on whether graffiti is art or not, it is illegal to place graffiti on someone else’s property without their permission. Graffiti and vandalism are crime.

Graffiti is an all-too-common form of vandalism. Graffiti vandals write, scribe, etch, or spray-paint on many surfaces. It costs communities throughout USAREUR millions of dollars each year, but the cost of doing nothing is far higher.

Not removing graffiti encourages littering, loitering, violence and more graffiti.

A neighborhood plagued by graffiti becomes unappealing to prospective homeowners and tenants. As people choose neighborhoods that appear clean and safe over those littered with graffiti, property values in graffiti-ridden neighborhoods may decrease. The result – deterioration of that neighborhood.

One form of graffiti is known as “tagging”. The term is used to tag or delegate authority over an area and is commonly used by gangs claiming territory. Studies show that tagging is known to lead to shoplifting and other crimes.

People feel angry, sad, and frightened when something of theirs – a mailbox, a garden, a car antenna – is destroyed for no

reason.

Vandalism indirectly claims other victims – a child is injured because a stop sign was stolen; or a person can’t reach emergency services because the public phone is broken. Broken windows can lead to cuts especially to children who play near an area with broken glass.

Not only is the cost of replacing broken items and repainting over graffiti a factor, but also the consequences of those actions. If caught, the perpetrator can face administrative action and possibly lose command sponsorship resulting in an Early Return of Dependents.

How can you prevent graffiti and vandalism?

Question teen requests for spray paint purchases! If you are approached by teenagers or your children requesting purchase of spray paint, find out how the paint is being used before your purchase the paint. Paint is not only used for vandalism and graffiti but it is also harmful if inhaled or used for “huffing”.

Teach your children responsibility and respect for themselves, their environment and the property of others. They need to know that graffiti and vandalism on private and public property is illegal and disrespectful.

Teach pride in community.

Parents, teachers, and community leaders are needed to help deter graffiti writers and vandals.

For graffiti writers, including some youth, graffiti becomes a way of life with its own code of conduct, jargon, and aesthetic standards.

Look around your community. Do you see...

- ◆ Walls covered with graffiti?
- ◆ Knocked-over trash cans or mailboxes?
- ◆ Broken street lights?
- ◆ Spray paint on stop signs?
- ◆ Missing street and traffic signs?
- ◆ Writing or torn pages in library books?
- ◆ Public restrooms with broken doors and graffiti?

The SNAP observers residing in Villaggio have been notified to increase their patrols around the areas most affected by graffiti and vandalism.

If you should see any suspicious activity it is important to call the MP desk immediately at 634-7626 or civilian 0444-71-7626.

Remember to report the time and place the incident occurred and how many persons, including descriptions, that are involved.

Strategic Planning from Page 1

The new ASPG along with being a refinement of the Army’s strategy and objectives also is the first major document Secretary Harvey has been a part of since he was confirmed.

“The secretary got involved and personally crafted pieces of it to ensure that it met with his intent and met with his vision,” said Bryant.

One of the major refinements to the document is the addition of 10 new Strategic Imperatives for the Army. They are:

- Implement Transformation Initiatives
- Improve Capabilities for Homeland Defense
- Improve Proficiencies Against Irregular Challenges
- Improve Capabilities for Stability Operations
- Achieve Army Force Capabilities to Dominate in Complex Terrain
- Improve Army Capabilities for Strategic Responsiveness
- Improve Global Force Posture
- Improve Capabilities for Battle Command
- Improve Joint Fires Capability
- Improve Capabilities for Joint Logistics

Three of these 10 – improve capabilities for homeland defense, improve capabilities for stability operations, and improve proficiencies against irregular challenges – have been designated as new Army focus areas.

The irregular challenges are defined by the ASPG as, ”unconventional methods adopted and employed by non-state and state actors to counter stronger state opponents.” The document goes on to elaborate “Experiences over the last decade from Mogadishu

to the Sha-I-Kot Mountains demonstrate the increasing frequency of the irregular challenge.”

“The ten strategic imperatives, are the things the Army needs to do in order to maintain its global commitments and fight and win the War on Terrorism,” explains Bryant.

Along with the refining of focus for the Army, the new ASPG attempts to make it easier for the reader to understand the Army’s strategic objectives and how the Army plans to achieve them.

“The document lays things out in terms of an ends, ways, and means construct. We explain our objectives, how we are going to accomplish them and the resources available. We did this so that the reader understands what our strategic objectives are and how we are going to achieve them,” explained Bryant.

The wording “strategic objectives” is also new to the document, changed from the old document’s “core competencies.” The two strategic objectives of the 2005 ASPG are “Trained and Equipped Soldiers and Developed Leaders” and “Relevant and Ready Land Power to the Combatant Commander as Part of the Joint Team.”

“Many of the changes that have been made in the past two ASPG documents are in response to the new world the U.S. has entered in the post 9/11 era,” Bryant said.

“A lot of it has to do with the fact that we are not fighting traditional nation states anymore, and wars like the one we are fighting in Iraq are an expression of that.”

The 2005 ASPG can be found online at www.army.mil/references/.



Some of the graffiti found on the walls in Villaggio. Much of the graffiti contains vulgar words or pictures.

The

Outlook

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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity.

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Blood bank, mailbox... from minds of African American inventors

Compiled by Megan Gafford
Outlook Staff

African Americans have greatly contributed to science and improving life. Their inventions are some of the most well-known and commonly-used. Information below, will give you just a taste of how African Americans have greatly enriched society.

The Blood Bank – Invented by Dr. Charles Richard Drew (1829-1902), an American medical doctor and surgeon. The blood bank is a method for long-term preservation of blood plasma, which he discovered lasted longer than whole blood. The blood bank has saved many lives and helped revolutionize the medical profession. The first blood bank was set up and operated by Drew at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, N.Y. He also established Britain’s blood bank system. Drew’s blood bank became the model for the Red Cross’ system of blood banks, and he became the first director. However, he resigned as director after the U.S. War Department issued a directive stating that blood taken from white donors should not be mixed with blood

taken from black donors; he said that there was no scientific evidence to support that racial differences determined blood differences.

The Agricultural Inventions of George Washington Carver – George Washington Carver (1865?-1943) was an American scientist, educator, humanitarian, and former slave who developed hundreds of products from peanuts, sweet potatoes, pecans, and soybeans. This greatly improved nutrition of the southern states, because at the time, the primary crop was cotton. Carver was a highly educated man, and was the first African American student and faculty member at various colleges. He donated his life’s saving to encourage further agricultural research.

The Potato Chip – George Crum invented this tasty snack in 1893, when Crum was a chef at the Moon Lake Lodge resort in Saratoga Springs, New York. A customer was complaining about his French fries being too thick no matter how thin Crum tried to make them. Finally, Crum, in exasperation, made a batch of French fries too thin to eat with a fork, in hopes of frustrating his picky customer. Surprisingly, however, the customer was satisfied. Thus began the uprising as the potato chip as a favorite snack food.

The Mailbox – Philip B. Downing invented the street letter drop mailbox, which included a hinged door that closed to protect mail from being stolen, sabotaged, or tampered with in any way. It was patented on Oct. 27, 1891. Downing also invented the street railway switch.

The Ironing Board – Before Sarah Boone invented the ironing board on Apr. 26, 1892, people had to resort to using a table or creatively laying a plank of wood across two chairs of small tables.

The Traffic Signal and Gas Mask

– Invented by Garret Augustus Morgan, these are only two of the inventions Morgan created. The traffic signal was patented on Nov. 20, 1923, and the gas mask was patented in 1914. Other inventions of Morgan’s include: a zigzag sewing machine attachment, a hair straightener, hair dying lotions, de-curling hair combs, and more.

Editor’s note: Information in this article was found online at the Web site: www.enchantedlearning.com, under Inventors. For more information about the achievements of Blacks in American History, visit the Web site.

Mako Sharks save best efforts for last

Story and photos by
Lt. Col. Brian Williams
Special to the Outlook

Thirty-four Sharks traveled to Naples last weekend to put on their best performance of the 2004-2005 season.

Strong individual and team relay efforts by the whole squad secured Vicenza an overall 2nd place out of the five teams competing in the Southern Divisional Finals.

The divisionals is the final meet of the season for team competition where swimmers vie for medals in all individual and team relay events. Over 250 swimmers from Rota, Sigonella, Aviano, Vicenza and Naples were in attendance.

Falling only to perennial powerhouse, Naples, Vicenza swimmers earned an unprecedented 64 individual medals with 14 swimmers medaling in each of their three events.

Top honors on the day went to DJ Schendel who took gold in the individual medley, butterfly and freestyle events. Other 1st place

finishers included: Tiffany Saddler, freestyle; Kathryn Rowan, Sara Febbo and Kyle McCann, breaststroke; and Meghan and Taylor Higgins, backstroke.

Coach Jane Higgins praised the team’s exceptional performance, attributing the success to, “a lot of hard work and loads of team spirit.”

Although the divisionals ended the regular season, qualifying Sharks will travel to Germany later this month to complete against the top swimmers from all over Europe in the European Regional Championships.

Vicenza will be well represented with 19 of its best, including last week’s new qualifiers Brian and Sara Febbo, Jessica Lain, Ryan McCann and Steve McCroary. They will join Lindsey and Kyle McCann, Jefferson Hando, Jonathan, Taylor and Meghan Higgins, Eric and Trevor Canipe, DJ Schendal, Bailey Butler, Rebecca Febbo, Savannah Owens, Tiffany Saddler and Carmen Catena, who all qualified earlier this season.

The championships will be held on Feb. 19-20 in Munich’s Olympic Pool where Mark Spitz won seven gold medals in the 1972 Olympics.



Cougar Wrestler Gary King, a VHS senior, wrestles an opponent from Aviano. King beat her in record time and went on to beat other opponents from Sigonella and Naples. King has been a strong wrestling competitor for VHS for the last three years. Right now, he is first in his weight group of 145 pounds, which he has been for the last two years in a row.

VHS hosts wrestling jamboree

Story and photos by Kelly Sheffield
Special to the Outlook

On the early morning of Jan. 22, Vicenza High School played host to wrestlers from other Mediterranean district schools for a Wrestling Jamboree in the VHS gym.

VHS welcomed wrestlers from Aviano, Sigonella, and Naples.

Weigh-in began at 8 a.m. followed by a pancake and sausage breakfast provided by the VHS Booster Club.

The matches were held from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and it was a wonderful event for all the wrestlers, coaches, parents and spectators to enjoy.

The Mediterranean Regionals will be at Aviano on Saturday, and the top two wrestlers in each weight class will then move on to the European Finals held in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Thanks to Cougar Coach George Hanby and Lt. Tom Anderson, volunteer assistant coach, for dedicating many hours of their energy, expertise and enthusiasm. All the Vicenza Cougar wrestlers have benefited from their dedication. Also, the Mediterranean District Office recently presented VHS with a new wrestling mat.



Courgar Wrestler Joe Wiehe, 215 lbs, is dominating his Aviano opponent, Jon Nelson. In a match that saw both wrestlers reverse each other a total of six times, Wiehe outlasted his Aviano adversary and made the final takedown to insure his 18-15 victory. A hard fought match that went the entire six minutes shows that conditioning in practice is an important element in producing a winner on the mat.



Davina Bowman touches the wall as teammate Trevor Canipe readies to finish the 200 meter mixed freestyle relay. Stroke and Turn Judges Phil Chambers and Neil Higgins keep a close eye on the swimmers.

Instructors honored for creating new Italian language, culture book

Story and photo
by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

“Central Texas College is fortunate to have such expertise, and I am happy to see their outstanding work recognized,” said Jackie Curran, Northern Mediterranean Area manager after a presentation that took place at the Vicenza Education Center Feb. 3 to recognize Mark Michanowicz and Elena Cappellaro who collaborated to complete the new Italian Headstart book.

Central Texas College Europe Campus Dean, Fred J. Ostertag assigned Michanowicz as the primary instructor for the compilation of the book.

He and Cappellaro, both teachers, had the desire to upgrade the previous book to benefit better the students.

“The new book replaced the old book about three months ago,” said Michanowicz. “Definitely, it had great reviews, the Soldiers like it and it can be used up to 40 hours, in case they ever increase the Headstart hours.”

Michanowicz explained that it took about a year and a half to complete the book.

“Basically, we felt, as teachers, that it had to be improved because it still had the old Lira and so we decided to implement the Euro, and some of the more modern things

such as how to get Internet, anything that would help the Soldiers, that increased their assimilation into the Italian society and how to deal with the Italian lifestyle.

“One of the bigger benefits, I think, was having an American and an Italian both collaborate to explain how an American thinks and how an Italian thinks, which brought the book together even better, not having only one perspective,” said Michanowicz.

According to Cappellaro, while working on the book they also used the feedback that came from the Soldiers’ experiences when dealing with the Italian culture.

“We understood where their needs were for information, so we added part of our common heritage that we had matured over the years to answer their questions,” she said.

Curran highlighted that, as their direct supervisor, she knew how many unclaimed hours these instructors spent working on the book.

She also added that the previous author, Daniela Morandi also provided invaluable guidance in the last few months of completion.

“All of the Northern Mediterranean instructors worked on the book in an annual training in June 2004 coordinated by Morandi, and I would like to thank also Patsy Marchetti of Camp Darby for assisting and offering insight to Camp Darby interests,” continued

Curran. “I know that Headstart students have really benefited from the book since its arrival in the classrooms,” she said.

Julia Sibilla, Central Texas College Mediterranean director and Sandra Spatera, Mediterranean Language Program manager stationed in Naples presented the Certificates of Appreciation to the Headstart instructors on Feb. 3 during their visit to Vicenza.

“I was really pleased to come here to present these awards,” Sibilla said.

“I have a special interest in the Headstart book because I worked on one of the original books about 15 years ago. I am very pleased to see that it has changed so much and improved.

“It is so user friendly and interesting, and the presentation is professional and creative. I think it is very appropriate for today’s environment.”

Walk 4 Freedom Support our deployed Soldiers, get in shape

Mikaela Cade
Health Promotion Coordinator

As I tore off the January page on my desktop calendar, I looked for a moment at the big yellow ribbon drawn around Feb. 18. How could a date so far away seem so incredibly near now. The day seemed to be larger than life in my eyes.

You’re probably thinking what is so special about Feb. 18. I am glad you asked; it is the day that we begin Walk 4 Freedom.

It is the day you can register yourself, your family, your office, your Family Readiness Group, or your team for the program.

It is the day that you can begin to log your miles on the road to completing your goal.

It is the day you can show community support by

visibly showing our Soldiers that they will be in our thoughts daily.

So, how can you be a part of this?

Just meet me at the post gym on Feb. 18 from 3-6 p.m. We, a dedicated group of sports and fitness professionals, volunteers, and health and wellness promoters will be there to get you registered, take your pictures for the Walk 4 Freedom Walk of Fame banner, administer your fitness assessments and answer all your questions about Walk 4 Freedom.

It starts after school so the children can come, and you can all get signed up as a family.

Also, it is the day that we will give free pedometers (while supplies last) to participants who complete a fitness assessment and set a yearlong wellness goal.

If you want more information concerning the Walk 4 Freedom program, call Cade at 634-8828.

Who do I call for repairs at my home?

Housing Division
Directorate of Public Works
22nd Area Support Group

When the water won’t turn on, or – even worse – when it won’t turn off, you may find yourself in too much of a panic to remember who to call for help. Fortunately, there are repair services available to residents of government-controlled housing, and they are only a phone call away.

Government-controlled, on-post housing residents have efficient repair services at their disposal.

The Directorate of Public Works experts service government-controlled housing in Villaggio. Villaggio customers may call 634-7491 during duty hours to place a service order for repairs or maintenance issues at their home.

Alternately, Villaggio residents may also place a service order online 24 hours a day by accessing http://www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil/sites/directorates/dpw_customer.asp and completely filling out the online service form. In addition, service orders may be submitted to service.orders@setaf.army.mil. Remember to include your contact information, as well as a complete description of the problem and your Villaggio quarter’s address.

Government-leased, off-post customers are serviced by our local housing maintenance contractor. Requests for service or repairs in government-leased homes may be directed to the housing maintenance contractor, CMR, at 634-8888. Alternately, service orders may be submitted via e-mail through CMR.SOdesk@setaf.army.mil. E-mail submissions must include contact information, quarters address, and a full description of the problem.

Residents of private rental housing usually must contact their landlord to discuss maintenance issues. Many leases stipulate that the tenant is responsible for minor maintenance work, while the landlord is responsible only for major repairs. Customers who are unsure of their private rental responsibilities or who to contact in regards to a maintenance issue at their home, or who require assistance in speaking to their landlord, are invited to contact the housing office at 634-7845/8283 for personalized support.

After-hours emergency requests for either Villaggio, government-leased or private rental housing – which may be strictly defined as any problem which poses an immediate danger to life or property (i.e., a burst water main) – may be submitted to the fire department at 634-7092. The

fire department will notify the proper person for repair, or contact an on-call member of the Housing staff for coordination with private rental landlords.

Mold problems in government-controlled housing, either on-post or off-post, should be referred to Costantino Fracasso, Housing Engineering technician, for resolution. Fracasso is well trained in solving mold problems in quarters.

He may be reached at 634-8570 or via e-mail at Costantino.Fracasso@setaf.army.mil.

A site visit will be scheduled, which will require someone to be home during the day – but ordinarily this takes no more than approximately 30 minutes, so there should be minimal inconvenience involved.

Tip for residents of all quarters: To prevent mold from growing in the first place, ensure your home is ventilated at least once per day by opening or tilting a window or two for a minimum of 30 minutes. This allows the air to be exchanged in your home and is particularly helpful if done in conjunction with showering or cooking. In addition to helping prevent mold growth, this will help keep the air in your home from becoming stale and unpleasant.



Unit Basketball Championships

173rd Company basketball team player Yusef Davis, #2, scores during one of the games during the 2005 22nd Area Support Group and SETAF Unit Recreational Championship. Also in the picture, players of the team Sweet-N-Low Eric Cross, #6, and Corey Harris, #10, reaching for the ball. The 173rd Co. Team won the game 35-30. About twelve teams participated in the annual event that took place at the Vicenza Fitness Center from Jan. 28-31. Dream Team took 1st place, Vet. and Company took 2nd place, and 173rd Company took 3rd place in the tournament. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Concerts

Upcoming concerts: In Trento March 4 David Crosby and Graham Nash; In Milan April 5 Queen with Paul Rodgers and April 7 in Florence; In Milan May 30 System of A Down; In Milan June 7 Marilyn Manson; In Bologna June 11 Gods of Metal 2005 with Iron Maiden and June 12 with Motley Crue; and In Milan July 23 U2

Most of the tickets are already on sale online.

Classical music: On Sunday in the Teatro Comunale in Thiene there will be classical music played by the Olimpico Theater orchestra directed by G. De Lorenzo. The evening Incontriamo Mozart Meeting Mozart will begin at 5 p.m. and is free, but reservations must be made beforehand by calling the Thiene cultural office at 0445-804-745 to reserve your seat.

XX Olympic Winter Games

Tickets for the XX Olympic Winter Games, to be held in Torino Turin Feb.10-26, 2006, will go on sale worldwide Thursday. Be there in person to see the Olympic figure skating, bobsleigh, ice hockey or other events where 2,500 athletes from throughout the world will be competing.

Tickets available from www.torino2006.org/tickets. The mascots of the upcoming Olympics are Neve and Gliz. She is a soft, friendly and elegant snowball and he is a lively playful ice cube. These two elements are indispensable for the performance of the winter disciplines – snow and ice.

Markets

In Vicenza’s main square on Sunday will be the monthly antique market which has over 200 stalls and is open sunup to sundown.

Pozzoleone: The 257th annual St. Valentines fest in the town of Pozzoleone, 20 kilometers from Vicenza, takes place Sunday through Feb. 20. Find two markets both open on Sunday, and Feb. 19-20. The first market is outdoors and is open from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. See an exhibition of Italy’s latest agricultural machinery alongside a market with 300 stalls selling clothing articles and bric-a-brac. The other market, held under a

huge tent, will be open from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. displaying furniture, sports equipment, and more. There will be a grand opening of this market on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Also find a small fair ground with rides for children, music groups performing in the evening starting at 8:30 p.m., and food tents. As the town of Pozzoleone is small, expect crowds in the area and parking problems.

Bussolengo: The town of Bussolengo, province of Verona, is 60 kilometers from Vicenza and will hold their St. Valentines fair on Saturday starting at 10:30 a.m. with a grand opening ceremony in the main square - Piazza XXVI Aprile. The fair, now in it’s 294rd year, will take place at the town’s Foro Boario, and will include a market, held near the small church of St. Valentine, with 250 stalls selling bric-a-brac. It will be open until 7 p.m. this weekend, and will have a small luna park and food stands. There will also be a livestock market because, according to local tradition, St. Valentine also protected oxen, cows and calves from a 1711 epidemic of foot and mouth disease. Lots of other events are taking place including the popular Italian folk singer Angelo Branduardi who will perform on Saturday at 9 p.m. Tickets are required. There will be a free fashion show, mostly wedding attire, on Sunday at 9 p.m. Entrance is free. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday displays of antique Alfa Romeo cars will be in one of the main squares and on the same days is a chance for children 7-11 years of age to be a pilot for a day, when they can go Go-Karting. For the full program find a magazine you can download on the website www.comune.bussolengo.vr.it In Italian only.

Valentines day

Ever thought why Feb. 14 was chosen for Valentine’s Day? The most popular legend depicting the origin of Valentine’s Day tells us that during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius II he outlawed marriage claiming that it decreased his male soldiers’ zest for battle. Despite the Emperor’s decree, a priest by the name of Valentine is said to have continued to perform marriage ceremonies for those who requested it. On February 14th, 269 AD,

Valentine was beheaded for his commitment to young love. According to lore, lovers in Italy and around the world have been celebrating the memory of Valentine ever since. In Italy, as in most other countries, find the stores and street vendors flush with fresh flowers, candies and specially wrapped chocolates, also expect trattoria’s, pizzeria’s and restaurants to be fully booked.

Tipping

Just how much do we have to tip for services received? Tipping is not customary in Italy, however, in restaurants you will find, when you check your bill, that most of them add a coperto, cover charge, and servizio, service charge, on top of what is consumed. In major tourist areas such as Venice or Rome it is not unusual to add 5 percent if the meal and service were average, 10 percent if better then average and 15 percent if excellent. For taxi drivers you could add 5-10 percent, although Italians rarely tip them. In Cafes and bars Italians will usually leave small change as a tip, but this is by no means obligatory. In busy tourist areas, be aware that prices double, sometimes even triple, if you sit down to have your drink.

Car museum

The automobile museum Luigi Bonfanti in the town of Romano d’Ezzelino, province of Bassano, has seven spider cars added to its other vintage cars. Included are the Mercedes SLK, the Smart Cabrio, the Audi TT Roadster and the Maserati Spyder. The cars will be on show until March 28. Open Tuesday - Sunday from 10 a.m.-noon and 2:30-6:30 p.m. Entrance fee is 7 euro.

Hot-air balloons

The 4th International Hot-Air Balloon meeting with take in the town of Carpineti, which is located 37 kilometers from Reggio Emilia. Last year there were 32 hot-air balloons from 10 European countries participating. On Sunday the flights are at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The flight on Feb. 19 is at 3 p.m. and Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. There is also a possibility to have a ride in the hot-air balloon. Cost is 100 euro per person.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Feb. 9	Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 10	Alexander (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 11	Spanglish (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Woman Thou Art Loosed (R)	10 p.m.
Feb. 12	Spanglish (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Woman Thou Art Loosed (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	Spanglish (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Woman Thou Art Loosed (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 16	Woman Thou Art Loosed (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 17	Woman Thou Art Loosed (R)	7 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

Feb. 11	Ocean’s Twelve (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 12	Blade: Trinity (R)	7 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

SPANGLISH - *Adam Sandler, Téa Leoni* - When the beautiful native Mexican woman Flor, the mother of a 12-year-old girl, becomes the housekeeper for an affluent Los Angeles family, cultures collide. Of all the horrifying pitfalls she worried about in this new culture, Flor had never fathomed the peril of being truly embraced by an upscale American family.

WOMAN THOU ART LOOSED - *Kimberly Elise, Loretta Devine* - Based on of Bishop T.D. Jakes’ self-help novel, Michelle Jordan grows up in an environment of abuse and molestation by the hands of her mother’s boyfriend; while her mother looks the other way. These circumstances lead young Michelle into the dark abyss of drugs, prostitution and prison. While incarcerated, she sends Bishop Jakes a letter seeking a visit. With the prodding of her mother, Jakes visits Michelle and through a series of flashbacks he uncovers the dark past that has lead to Michelle’s drug abuse, association with abusive men and finally murder. Jakes gets Michelle an early furlough with one stipulation, that she attends his upcoming three-day revival. Still bitter and distrusting of the church community, her mother in particular, Michelle is forced to do some soul-searching that takes her on a journey to recovery and resolve.

BLADE: TRINITY - *Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson* - Realizing they may never be able to defeat the vampire hunter known as Blade the Dayhunter, the vampires set Blade up to appear like a psychopathic serial killer. The plan is successful, with the FBI soon on his tail, Blade’s ability to hunt vampires is limited severely, even as they have awakened the granddaddy of them all, Dracula, a pure vampire with amazing abilities others do not possess. To take on the threat of this most powerful vampire, Blade accepts the help of a team of human vampire hunters called the Nightstalkers.

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON - *Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth* - Six weeks after the events in Bridget Jones’s Diary, erstwhile London singleton Bridget Jones is still happily dating human-rights lawyer Mark Darcy. But eventually she starts to notice his flaws and begins wondering if he isn’t interested in his new co-worker. Bridget’s love life is further complicated when her former boss and flame Daniel Cleaver arrives on the scene, having landed a job at Bridget’s TV station.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.



Jack Frost Sweetheart 5K fun run, walk



Participants pose for a photo at the finish line for the 5 kilometer fun run and walk Saturday. Left: Ricky Jackson, sports office, talks participants through the run and walk route on Caserma Ederle. There were 34 participants who had lots of fun and showed great morale, unity and esprit de corp throughout the event, said Jackson. (Photos by Navy Cmdr. Ken O’Brien, SETAF)

MOSAICS

Creating stepping stones



Story and photos
By Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Among its many activities, the Vicenza Art Center offers craft classes for children and their parents. Last spring the center offered its Mosaic Stepping Stones class, which was a big hit. The class is offered again this Saturday at the art center for parents and children. During the last course, six girls enjoyed a mosaic stepping stones class where they learned how to use the tools and materials, such as stained glass and glass nuggets, to create a piece for a windowsill, to put under a flower pot, or in the garden.

"The children actually came up with the best ideas about how to use it," said Anne Rivera, Art Center instructor for the class this past spring. Rivera has been creating mosaics for seven years. "Some said you can make a little table out of it, and someone else said that if you make a lot of them, you can make a path in the garden," she said. When participants started the class they had no idea of what to expect, especially when they had to put down the pieces and then think in reverse before they poured the concrete in the mold and let it dry for a couple of days, said Rivera. "I explained, that they had to flip the piece over, and it would be like taking a cake out after baking it," she said. This class has a limited number of participants, and registration and payment is required prior to all classes. Classes may be cancelled if there are not enough participants. For more information about this class or any upcoming courses, registration and costs, call the art center at 634-7074.



Be mine Valentine

A member of the Vicenza Art Center staff works on a special Valentine's Day Card at the art center. The center is offering a Sweetheart Special to create Valentine cards for family and friends this Friday from noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$1 per card and it includes cards, stamps, ink and ideas. No registration is required. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

